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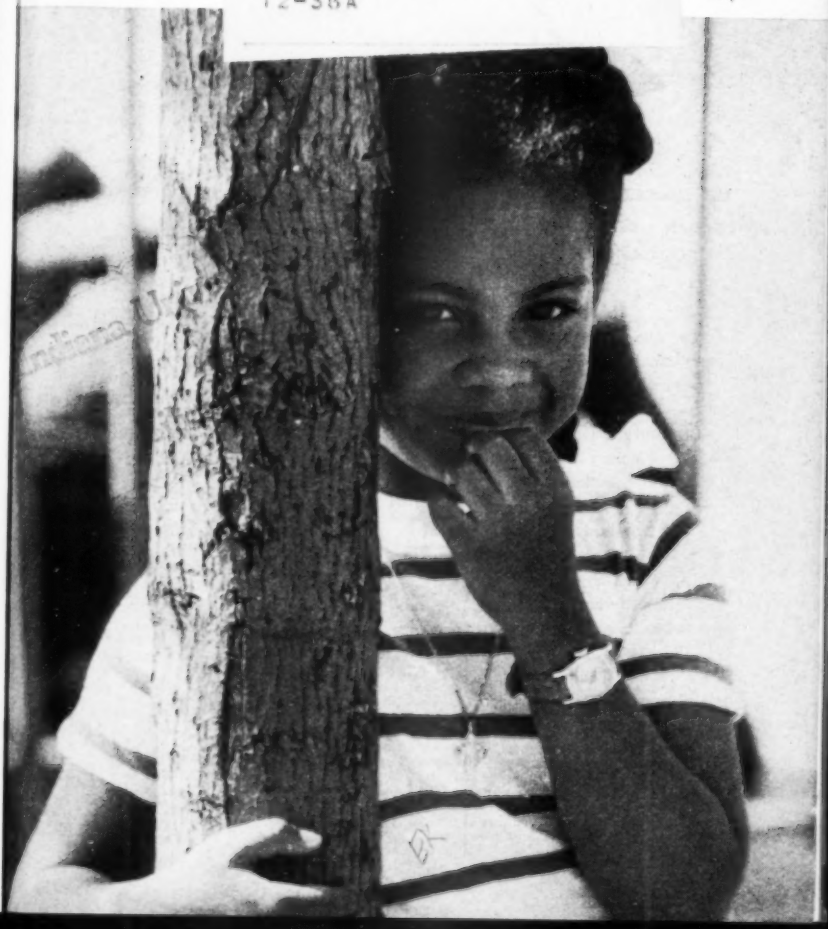

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Editor: James W. Ivy
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January, 1958

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Donna Maria Coombs, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Coombs of 2171 Madison Ave., New York City 37—Cecil Layne photo.

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Cecil Layne

LOUIS JORDAN, *famous musician, takes time out on the stage of the crowded Apollo Theatre in New York City to receive his NAACP life membership plaque from Jackie Robinson (L), national chairman of the 1957 NAACP freedom fund campaign.*

■ A look at the Atlanta NAACP conference on registration and voting

Voting in the South—a Second Front

By Gloster B. Current

A SECOND front in the war on segregation in the South was established by thirty-four NAACP leaders and representatives of other organizations interested in registration and voting in a southwide meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 16-17. Keynoted by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, and addressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., chairman, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Clarence Mitchell, director, Washington Bureau, NAACP, the Conference issued a call for the registration by 1960 of 3,000,000 Negro voters in the South.

The Conference was called by the Association's Executive Secretary for the purpose of discussing a program of action to implement the provisions of the 1957 Civil Rights Act, with special emphasis on increasing Negro registration and voting.

GLOSTER B. CURRENT *is the director of NAACP branches.*

Dr. King reported on the recent meetings of ministers and other southern leaders and the plans made by his group, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, for registering voters in the South. He pledged co-operation with the NAACP, calling for "unified action in the area of registration and voting." He told the group that efforts of the southern Christian Leadership Conference "should be regarded as an indispensable aid to the NAACP, which is exactly what it is. It is, by no means, in competition or in conflict with the NAACP."

Clarence Mitchell, director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau, reviewed efforts of the Association and its supporters which culminated in the adoption by Congress of the Civil Rights Act. Mr. Mitchell predicted that Negro voters could elect at least five Negro Congressmen from three southern states by 1960 in the event of a successful campaign to register the potential Negro voters.

It was Mr. Mitchell's view that three Negro congressmen could be elected from Mississippi, and one each in the states of North and South Carolina. Pointing to the provisions of the Civil Rights Act, Mr. Mitchell warned southern registrars that they "could be put in jail without a jury trial for capriciously denying a Negro the right to vote on the basis of race" under the Civil Rights bill. It was his contention that the basic fear of the opponents of desegregation is integration at the polls.

In well documented reports, NAACP leaders from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia presented statistical data on the number of registered voters, activities of organizations working on voting, and problems affecting use of the ballot. These reports were given by W. C. Patton, president, Coordinating Association for Registration and Voting in Alabama; Robert Saunders, Florida NAACP field secretary; Professor Clarence Bacote, Atlanta University; Clarence Laws, Louisiana NAACP field secretary; Medger Evers, Mississippi field secretary; Kelly M. Alexander, president, North Carolina State Conference; J. Arthur Brown, president, Charleston, S. C. branch; Reverend Frank Gordon, Knoxville, Tennessee; John H. Brooks, field secretary, Virginia State Conference.

The following statement, drafted by a committee composed of Reverend Frank R. Gordon of Knoxville, chairman; Mr. Arthur Chapital, Sr., New Orleans; and Mr. J. Arthur Brown, Charleston, South Carolina, was adopted and issued to the press:

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We have gathered in Atlanta to play our part in strengthening the electoral process of our nation. In the long run, our efforts to perfect our democracy may prove to be a significant weapon in meeting the challenge of the Soviet satellite.

The problems which confront the nation require the participation of the whole citizenry in efforts to find workable solutions. Our purpose is to devise a plan of action to enlarge citizen participation, on a non-partisan basis, in the making of decisions which may well determine the fate of the nation.

Encouraged by the enactment of the first federal civil-rights law in 82 years, we are resolved to utilize the provisions of the statute in a southwide drive to expand vastly the number of registered Negro voters in this region.

Despite constitutional requirements, these citizens have too long been deprived of the free ballot, which is the cornerstone of any democratic system. As a result, no more than 25 per cent of the potential Negro voters in 11 southern states are registered to vote as compared to 60 per cent of white citizens of voting age.

A people thus deprived obviously cannot contribute their share to the common good nor enjoy the full fruits of democracy. They remain at the mercy of political cliques which too often have been indifferent, if not hostile, to their needs. Only through free participation in the electoral process can Negro Americans in the South hope to achieve full citizenship.

Working through the local and state units of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and in cooperation with other such organized groups as the churches, or-

ganized labor, civic, professional and fraternal societies, we seek as our first goal the registration of as high a proportion of Negro voters as of white. The immediate goal is to bring Negro registration up to 60 per cent of its potential or to about 3,000,000 voters by 1960. With the incentive of the 1957 civil rights law, we are confident that this goal can be reached.

Such an increase in voting strength will lead inevitably to the discovery, nomination and election of qualified candidates, regardless of race, who will represent the best interests of all the people.

To achieve our objectives requires organization and year 'round campaigning. To this end, we recommend that the NAACP Board of Directors establish the necessary machinery and provide the necessary budget to implement a program which will reach every Negro household in 11 Southern states. Congress has provided the tool with which we can reach our goal. We must develop the resources to use that tool.

ACTION PROGRAM INTERPRETED

In a press conference following adoption of the statement, Mr. Wilkins indicated that the NAACP would use every available means to get Negroes registered in the South. Where there is apathy, the NAACP plans to step up its activities in order to encourage registration and voting. Where there are restraints preventing Negroes from voting, the NAACP will make use of the provisions of the new Civil Rights Act. The goal of 3,000,000 was set, he said, in order to bring the Negro percentage of voters up to the same proportion as white voters in the population.

The Conference elected an Implementing Committee to work out a program of action. This Committee includes Kelly M. Alexander of North Carolina, chairman; W. Lester Banks, Virginia; Mrs. L. C. Bates, Arkansas; Charles R. Darden, Mississippi; Col. A. T. Walden, Georgia; W. C. Patton, Alabama; and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Georgia.

There should be no doubt by now that the opponents of integration are engaged in an all-out fight to prevent any progress from being made by civil-rights groups at any time in the near future. Since the passage of the Civil Rights Act last summer, the segregationists have been developing counter strategy to moves which they assume will be initiated by the NAACP to implement the provisions of the new law.

Under the auspices of the Association of Citizens Councils of America, an organization of groups in the deep South which opposes implementation of the Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954, a meeting was held in Atlanta October 26. At this meeting, representatives from nine states, which are resisting integration, proposed revamping voting laws as a means of protecting local officials from "NAACP harrassment." State Senator William N. Rainach of Louisiana, presided over this meeting. Others among the brain-trusters of the citizens councils who were present were Georgia Congressman James C. Davis, Roy Harris, president of the Georgia States Rights Council and Alabama State Representative Sam Englehart, author of the famous Englehart Bill to abolish Macon County by parcelling it out among four other counties in order to disfranchise the Negro voters of Tuskeegee.

An immediate reaction throughout the nation was noted to the NAACP strategy meeting in Atlanta on November 17. In the North, the effort of the Association to increase registration in the South was widely praised. Most northern newspapers noted that the effort of the NAACP to narrow the gap and, as expressed by the Toledo *Blade*, "bring to the southern Negro that standing as a full citizen which a stronger voice at the polls will do most to insure, at best appears to be a long-drawn out process." The *Blade* also felt that "the rate at which the Negro voter in the South realizes his potential political strength will probably depend a great deal on the wise enforcement of the new Civil Rights Act by, the federal government."

CAUTIOUSLY PRAISED

Thoughtful voices in the South praised, cautiously, the NAACP efforts to increase registration, while calling attention of white voters to a potential new threat from bloc voting by Negroes. *The Atlanta Constitution*, in an editorial on November 19, termed the NAACP program an attempt "to stage a political revolution in the South over the next few years." The *Constitution* warned that "this blueprint of the NAACP should be a clear challenge to white voters. They will have to do something about their apathy in registering and voting. No longer can they stay home in great droves on election day unless they expect to be outvoted. . . . Now with the NAACP directing the strategy, in a great surge of Negro voters to the polls, there is reason to be alert. The white voters of Georgia and the South should see the handwriting on the wall. It's time they showed their strength at the ballot box, too."

In Alabama, reaction took a more concrete form, when on December 17, the state's voters by a margin of 51,478 to 36,820 approved an amendment to the state constitution allowing the Legislature to abolish Macon County. The Negro population of Macon, seat of Tuskegee Institute, outnumbers the whites by more than seven to one. Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP said that "this is an open confession to the nation that Alabama will go to any lengths in order to prevent Negro citizens from enjoying their constitutional right to vote." Mr. Wilkins called for a reduction in the number of Alabama representatives in Congress, pointing out that "Alabama and other southern states have had a disproportionately large voice in national affairs because their representatives vote in the name of a phantom voting population as against the real voting population of non-southern states."

Passage of the amendment was a victory for Representative Englehart, who as executive secretary of the Alabama Association of Citizens Councils has been the state's leading proponent of maintaining segregation in every possible form. The Tuskeegee Civic Association, headed by Dr. Charles G. Gomillion, campaigned against the amendment, as did other Negro voter groups, to no avail.

PUNITIVE MEASURES

It is clear that segregationists, where they control state legislatures,

(*Continued on page* 60)

■ An account of the epic courage and the herculean labors of a colossal hero

Luke Jones: Hero of the Galveston Flood

By Cash Asher

ON September 6-7, 1900, *The Galveston Daily News* published two fate-related stories on its inside pages. One was a report from the Census Bureau in Washington, which gave the city's population at 37,789; the other told of a tropical storm raging off the Gulf Coast of Florida.

There was no issue of *The News* the next day. Had the newspaper been able to publish an edition, on September 9, it could have reported a decrease of 6,000 in the city's population. For that was the estimated toll of death in the worst single disaster in the nation's history. The hurricane had struck with violent force (September 8-9), and the beautiful island city lay in ruins.

At least twenty-five per cent of those killed were Negroes. Their fragile houses in the city's lowlands were swept away in the initial whirling blast of the wind and the surging inrush of the sea. Out of the chaos of that black night of terror came reports of heroism, among Negroes and whites alike, to stir the blood after more than a half century has passed.

Dramatic, and perhaps unequalled among experiences of men of the sea, was the voyage that night of the Steamship *Roma*. Luke Jones, a young Negro, described in the records as "herculean, courageous and indomitable," had been a member of the crew for nearly two years.

The story of how the *Roma* survived the storm, as reconstructed from piece-meal reports from Jones and his fellow-crew members, is as follows:

"With the approach of the hurricane, the ship was made as secure as possible at the Thirty-third Street wharf. When the gale struck her with all its force, she plunged and tore at her steel mooring cables. They held for a time, but no cable or ship ever

---

CASH ASHER, *whilom reporter on the* Detroit Free Press, *now lives in Corpus Christie, Texas. He authored "Waiting for a Verdict with Clarence Darrow" in the June-July, 1957,* Crisis.

made by man could hold that night. She broke away before midnight and went on a mad race up the bay. On her way she crashed through the ends of two of the immense piers built by the Southern Pacific Railway, wrecking them, and then continued on her course. A mile beyond she was caught by a vagrant puff of the hurricane and sent in a southerly direction, smashing her way through three bridges that spanned the bay and connected Galveston with the mainland. Then the wind changed again, and she stranded midway between one of the railroad bridges and the county wagon bridge. She finally settled in the mud of the bay."

Jones and other members of the crew found safety on the lower decks until the hurricane passed and the water began to recede. Several of the crew had been swept overboard in the early hours of the storm. Jones had two sisters in Galveston. The moment it was possible to lower a boat, he and two other Negroes started back across the bay. The water was strewn with the wreckage of ships and buildings. They rescued two boys who were clinging to the side of an overturned canoe, and continued into the city. Jones could not find the way to his sisters' home in the heaps of torn and twisted buildings. He climbed to the top of a palm tree that somehow had withstood the tempest, and looked in the direction of the Negro district. Not a single house remained in that half-mile square area. It was still inundated by two or three feet of water, and the bodies of men, women, children and animals floated with the wreckage of homes in this liquid mausoleum. Despairing of ever finding his relatives, Jones organized a rescue party. He and his helpers released a man and woman imprisoned under a heap of timbers, and whose cries for help attracted them. The man's leg was broken. Jones gave them water from a canteen he had brought from the lifeboat, made them as comfortable as he could, and went on in search of others who had been injured or needed assistance.

RESCUE WORK

They encountered other parties carrying on rescue work during that day of indescribable horrors. They came to the Ursuline Convent and Academy, run by the Sisters of Saint Angele, which had been a haven of refuge for nearly a thousand storm-driven refugees. Men, women, and children hovered in the place. Some had sought refuge there the afternoon before the hurricane struck, and others had been swept there on the raging torrent. The wind had destroyed a section of the main building. During the height of the hurricane, people were taken in through the first and second story windows, and others dragged through five feet of water in the basement. Some were snatched from roofs and other wreckage as it hurled through the maddening currents of the convent yards.

One mother, Mrs. William Heideman, was literally flung through a window of the institution in a trunk. She was cast into the maelstrom when her home went down and was swept away. She was carried for a time on the roof of a wrecked cottage. In the darkness, the roof

crashed into something and the woman was hurled from her saving raft and landed in a trunk which was rocking on the tortured water. There, suffering from the pains of impending childbirth, she was carried at tormenting speed along several avenues of wreckage, finally reaching the shelter of the convent. A few hours later, her child was born in a nun's cell. With death at the institution's door, the child was immediately baptised William Henry. This child would be fifty-seven years old. No one in Galveston seems to have ever given much thought to him or his unusual advent into the world on that embattered night so long ago. Is he still living? If so, where is he?

Jones and his party went past the location of Saint Mary's Orphanage, on the beach west of the city. It had been completely destroyed, bringing death to ten Sisters of the Incarnate Word and ninety-one children. The buildings were substantial and the Sisters believed they would hold against the monster that came charging out of the sea. They herded the children onto the second floor of the chapel; but the flood waters engulfed them and the building crumpled before the terrific force of wave and wind. The bodies of three of the Sisters were recovered three days later on the shore of Texas City, ten miles away.

WORKED CEASELESSLY

Moving from street to street, listening for the cries of people in need of rescue, examining bodies for signs of life, bandaging wounds, Jones and his helpers worked ceaselessly through the morning hours as the water receded, the wind died down, and the sun tried to break through lingering banks of clouds. They found many people wandering about completely nude. The wind had stripped away their clothing. They found garments in the wreckage to wrap them in. They probed into iceboxes for fresh water, which was becoming a universal need. They ministered to many. They got to the edge of the Negro district shortly after noon, as the water flowed back into the bay, but there was little they could do in that demolished section. They found a few Negro survivors who had clung to the wreckage as the storm razed their flimsy buildings. But Jones' sisters were not among these, nor were their bodies ever identified during the distressing days ahead.

Like the Negro district, the Gulf-side of the island four to eight blocks wide, where fifteen thousand people lived in two thousand, eight hundred dwellings, not a single timber, palm tree or piece of masonry remained anchored to the ground. It had been beaten back into the primitive. When Jones and his party reached this section in mid-afternoon, the Gulf was quietly singing its old enchanting rhythm, and its waves were tumbling in playful rollers along the bruised shore.

Stretching from the western to the eastern extremities of the city, behind this denuded area, the searching party saw a towering windrow of debris piled up against a broken line of buildings. It contained every object and utility used by man—tin roofs rolled into scrolls, timbers twisted into grotesque forms, broken chairs and tables, clothing, telegraph

wires, bricks, stone, sand, the slime of the ocean, the carcasses of horses, dogs, cats, the bodies of men, women and children.

PATHOS AND TRAGEDY

Pathos and tragedy, despair and love were pencilled by Death's ink in that tangled skein of rubble. There in clear view, like a Goya painting in a cubist background, Jones saw a kneeling boy with his stiff hands clasped on the arm of his young brother; there, too, resting serenely near the top of the embankment, was a mother with an infant strapped to her back. And not far away, streams of pale sunlight gleamed from a crucifix in the hands of a young girl. Most of the figures in that ugly gray pile of ruin were in the nude. The wind had stripped them of their clothing. Tangled and hidden and entombed in that mass of debris were more than one thousand bodies. They were never identified and the records of their ever having lived perished with them. There, also, were strangers, who like Hawthorne's *Uninvited Guest*, died anonymously in the catastrophe.

Everywhere that Jones and his party went, they found a city dazed by the horror it beheld. Nothing had escaped the ravages of inundation. The wharves and docks were scattered over the sea and land. Where they had stood the day before, the swells broke over a stark, primeval beach. The twisted, broken skimmings of the wind scarified the bay. Flotsam was on its surface, ships piled up along its shores, the driftwood of death was in its arms. And not even Houston, fifty miles away, was aware of the tragedy.

The island of desolation was completely cut off from the rest of the world. The bay bridges were wrecked, telephone and telegraph systems out of commission. It was Sunday morning. It was nearing eleven o'clock when Jones joined another party making their way over slimy rubble toward the center of the city. They said there was a to be a meeting. It was necessary to send a call for help, and the only means of communication to the outside world was by boat across the bay. A committee of five, including Jones, was named to make the trip. The only craft afloat that could navigate the shallows of the bay was a twenty-foot steam launch, and that was battered and crippled. It was hastily repaired and by noon the party started on a journey only a trifle less hazardous than the storm they had survived.

ROWING AND BAILING

They reached Texas City, ten miles away, rowing and bailing, with the strong physique of Seaman Jones doing a lion's share of the labor and helping in the navigation. They had to struggle three miles across rain-soaked fields, strewn with the droppings of the wind, to the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railway. There they found a handcar and pumped it fifteen miles toward Houston where they met a train and prevailed upon the engineer to take them back to that city. They arrived at three o'clock Monday morning. Thus a startled world got its first news of the disaster.

By noon that day they were back

(*Continued on page* 59)

■ How a Broadway actor found Shakespeare to be his best meal ticket

"Mister Johnson" vs. Mr. Hyman

By Martin Tucker

IT'S not news when a star is born in a Broadway hit, but it's as improbable as the thought that Rodgers and Hammerstein may go broke when a star rises on the ashes of a flop. And it's twice as extraordinary when success brings not fame but more difficulty in finding another job. Yet that's exactly what happened to Earle Hyman.

When the play *Mister Johnson* opened a year and a half ago, the Broadway critics were lukewarm in their praise for everyone and everything except the leading player, Earle Hyman, a relatively unknown Negro actor. Hyman was called wonderful, thrilling, amazingly tender and a full-fledged star.

Even Joyce Carey, the famous British writer from whose novel the play was adapted, wired the producers, "Who is Earle Hyman?"

Hyman, however, had been around the Broadway beat for a long time—some thirteen years. And he had been acting, too, both in Broadway and off-Broadway productions. The good-looking shy bachelor of thirty must himself have been surprised by the lavish encomiums for a "New Face."

But the strange thing happened again. A star for a few weeks in *Mister Johnson,* praise galore from critics and the audience, and then a drop into relative obscurity. Hyman has gone from *Mister Johnson* into a host of jobs, including the lead in the Negro production of *Waiting for Godot,* on Broadway, but he has never regained his stellar stature.

Why the sudden, ironic twist in his career?

While a white actor or actress usually finds stardom brings ease, money and fame, a Negro star finds the reverse. For there are only a few starring roles in any repertoire for a Negro actor. The majority of roles are those listed under "character" parts, and these usually are not assigned to a "star."

MILTON TUCKER *lives in Brooklyn, New York.*

United Press

"OTHELLO" *(Earle Hyman), L, and "Iago" (William Thornton) enjoy tasty chicken legs as they discuss the performance at an Elizabethan-style "sweets" table. The actors had just taken part in the opening night presentation of* Othello *by The Shakespeare Guild Festival Company.*

Yet the question is more difficult than that—because Hyman created a tremendous reaction among the women in his audience. They wept unabashedly during the play, and many came backstage to his dressing room to be sure he was all right. After Hyman assured them he had died only on-stage, they wiped their tears and smiled.

The reaction Hyman stimulated was a cross between that of Frank Sinatra's maternal middle-aged women who want to take care of him, and Liberace's sentimental ladies indulging in their dreams of reincarnated youth. Hyman's female audience wanted to take care of him while at the same time allowing him to roam free as a charming teenager.

One of Hyman's female fans included an old flower vendor who waited outside the theatre door every night to give him a carnation. She wouldn't take any money. "You make me feel young. That's payment enough," she told him.

A MODEST MAN

Hyman, an essentially modest man, has decided not to hold out for star parts or even "character" parts but to take whatever role is offered him. The decision has paid off in a number of jobs—he has appeared in five different productions this season (among them, *The Duchess of Malfi*, in which he played a white man without powdering his face), and is now one of the featured players in the Stratford, Connecticut, Shakespeare repertory group. But it has also resulted in a loss of fame for the actor who once scored a personal triumph on Broadway.

Hyman was the first Negro to step on the stage of the New American Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Stratford, Connecticut, when it opened during the summer of 1955. Lawrence Langner, co-producer of the Theatre Guild and co-director of the Festival Theatre, was getting everything ready for the premiere production when Hyman cornered him and argued that at least one Negro should be in the opening cast as a "symbolic gesture to American democracy." Langner fully agreed, but said there were no Negro parts in the play to be given, which was *Julius Caesar*. Hyman countered with the suggestion that "the Soothsayer could be black, yellow or green," since no color was assigned to this mystical being by Shakespeare. Langner was convinced, and thus Hyman, then a 28-year-old Negro, became the first actor to step onto the stage at the opening of the Stratford Theatre.

"Once you open a door," Hyman says, "you get inside."

The situation in general for the American Negro in the theatre has radically changed, Hyman believes, and much for the better. "The theatre is really going through a wonderful initiation," he declares. "Negroes could get parts before, but only in Negro roles. Today several are playing 'white parts' and the trend is still growing."

Hyman, like another famous Negro entertainer, Harry Belafonte, has had opportunity knock twice on his door. When he graduated from high school, he told his parents he wanted to become an actor. "My parents didn't know a Broadway stage from a nightclub," he says. "So they thought I was going into a wicked world of sin. But they were understanding. They gave me a year to make good."

In that year he entered the John Golden auditions for new acting talent and placed eighth as a finalist among 1,028 candidates. The late

Canada Lee, then an established actor, was so impressed with Hyman's talent that he got him jobs in radio. Next step up was a part in *Run, Little Chill'un,* a Broadway play which Hyman says ran awfully fast. It lasted three weeks.

FIRST PROFESSIONAL BREAK

Hyman's first big professional break came with the part of the earnest young suitor in the American Negro Theatre's basement production of *Anna Lucasta* in Harlem. Those who can remember thirteen years back will recognize Hyman as the young man who finally won Anna Lucasta in spite of her tawdry background and her father's unconscious incestuous desires. The production aroused such favorable reception in the press and among the public which journeyed from all parts of the city during the summer to the hot basement that it was moved downtown to Broadway. Thus, at seventeen, Hyman already had a featured part in a Broadway production.

And he had won his wager with his parents. He had made good within a year.

"I don't blame my parents for being skeptical. I was frightened myself. Even my high school teachers advised me against going into the theatre. They said opportunities for a Negro actor were very limited, and even the good actors sometimes wouldn't make a go of it.

"They advised me to go to college for four years anyway, and then try the stage. If I had listened to them, I probably would have become a school teacher. Even now, I sometimes regret I missed out on college."

Hyman had one bleak year in 1952 when he could have thought he had made the wrong decision, for during that entire year he could not land a job. He was forced to hire himself out as a messenger-runner for a dressmaking firm in New York's garment district, but he kept his contacts with the theatre all the time. Finally he managed to land a part in the Equity Library Theatre production of Eugene O'Neill's *All God's Chill'un Got Wings.* That part led to small roles in television, and then Hyman created the role of Othello for the Shakespearwrights at the Jan Hus auditorium in New York. The production lasted four months, which is the national record as the second-longest run. Hyman also went on the television screen as the unfortunate Moor.

HYMAN AND THE BARD

In spite of all the critical and professional attention he was receiving, Hyman was making very little money. In fact, barely enough to live on. Off-Broadway groups pay their actors subsistence salaries in order to meet costs and expected production losses. Hyman was able to compensate a little with his TV jobs, and then came a part in Moss Hart's *Climate of Eden* on Broadway. The play, however, ran into hostile notices and closed soon after opening.

Again, Hyman says, he went to the idol who has always played a vital part in his life. When he was near poverty's door, some Shakespearian producer rescued him. When he was near moral collapse as an actor, the vision of Shakespeare buoyed him up. During the next few years

(*Continued on page* 61)

■ **Nigeria, on the verge of independence, finds herself an almost hopelessly divided federation**

Nigeria: African Paradox

By Hugh H. Smythe

IN 1947, when the dynamic American-educator Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, internationally known as "Zik," through his tactics compelled the British Colonial Office to revise its attitude towards the problem of independence for Nigeria, people said: "Nigeria is on her way to freedom!" Today, a decade later and after several Constitutional Conferences and sundry other meetings, this largest of all African units, with some 30-40 million people (no accurate census has ever been taken), is still just that, "on her way." And if one is to judge from what happened in the latest Constitutional Conference of June, 1957, in London, when she demanded indepndence in 1959 and got little more than a promise from the British to entertain further discussions about the matter at that time, then even on April 2, 1960, when Nigerian leaders have asked Britian to declare her independent, one can only wonder whether or not Nigeria will still be just "on her way." To understand why Nigeria has been unable to achieve the kind of national oneness that a colony needs to achieve its dreedom, observations on certain Nigerian factors will prove to be enlightening.

First, the country is torn by disunity of several different kinds. Aside from five British Governors-General and one Deputy-Governor-General, there are five parliaments, five prime ministers, and five cabinets to govern the three major regions and the Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons. Of the politicians who run these units none of them or their parties seems to give much respect to the individual citizen, but each in various ways

DR. HUGH H. SMYTHE, who is on leave from Brooklyn college, where he teaches anthropology, is now studying leadership among the Nigerians.

plays to his own advantage such divisive forces as family, clan, tribal, and regional allegiances which have not yet given way completely to national consciousness. Further, there is the internal fight among vested interest groups over the creation of more states—a Benin-Delta State, a Middle Belt State, a Midwest State; and in the East a Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers State, not to mention the Lagos-and-Colony State Movement in the now federal district, as well as the continued propagands for the development of various ethnic states.

Stemming from this latter situation in particular is the "minority" group question, which has reached such proportions that the British Government sent over in November a Minorities Commission of Enquiry to listen to the complaints of all who style themselves such. In Nigeria this term, "minority," has all kinds of definitions. A major group in the West, the Yoruba, become a minority in the North, where the Moslem Hausa holds sway; as well as others up there are who are non-Moslem in this Islamic stronghold, such as the Igbirras, Tiv, Nupe, Efiks, Ilorins, and Biroms. Cultural groups, like the Efiks, clamor for a place, while the Ijaws holler for protection from the Yoruba, as do the people of Benin who yell, "The Binis won't tolerate Yoruba domination in any shape or form!" Another segment shouts, "Ishan people don't want Midwest State!" And still others howl, "Itsekiris won't join Midwest!" And in the East almost everyone screams of Ibo domination. Paradoxical of all this is the Moslem North, which, although twice as large in land and people as both the southern-tiered East and West Regions combined, even holds off regional self-government, which the East and West assumed in the summer of 1957, saying it fears being swamped by the people in these two areas who are far more advanced than they—a case of a majority becoming a minority through fear. It should be noted here, too, to add to the confusion, that the Moslems of the country cannot even agree on the exact date for ending Eid-El-Fitr, or the end of the Ramadan, the month of fasting. Some in the North say April 30, others May 1; while still others celebrate May 2; as a consequence the government has to declare all three days a holiday!

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Then there is the matter of parliamentary democracy. Although you have universal suffrage in the East and West, up North, even as late as June 1957, the political bosses refused to concede the vote to women. In addition, where you have representative self-government in the East and West, up North the traditional rulers, the emirs and lesser heads, really are the dominant authorities. And this region, unlike the other two which pressed for independence immediately, the North said it preferred to wait until 1959 before deciding even on beginning regional self-government. And the most influential political leader of the North, the Mohammedan Sardauna of Sokoto, last summer decided he would rather wait and become the Sultan of Sokoto than have the

honor of becoming the first federal prime minister, although the job was his practically for the asking.

Here, too, is a country striving for national independence but the spirit of nationalism, fired by the colorful Zik in the 1940's, has all but died out in the struggle among regions and regional leaders; not to mention the constant turmoil that arises from the fact that ministers and other public officials are either in conflict, being removed from political party office, changing cabinet posts, or hurling invectives at one another. Worst of all there is no really national party in the entire country, Although Zik's National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons in the East, and Chief Obafemi Awolowo's Action Group in the West profess to be one. The Northern Peoples Congress of the Sardauna make no pretense of being anything else but Mohammedan and sectional. And keep in mind that in the coalition Federal legislature there is no Opposition group, but each of the party representatives maneuvers for partisan advantage rather than cooperative national strength.

But the political aspects aside, what makes Nigeria so puzzling is the fact that here is an underdeveloped country, poor in trained manpower, which yet refuses to make use of some of its most highly trained people, although it clamors for them. In this regard here is what a Nigerian Ph.D in political science from New York University, who himself has been refused a post on the campus at the one recogniged college-level institution of liberal arts in the country, University College at Ibadan, although there is a striking need for his services has to say. Writing on "A Critical Outline of the Nigerian Civil Service" in the largest circulated paper in the country, the *Daily Times* of October 8, 1957, Dr. Eme Awa says: "No country, ever needed trained men so badly but uses so ineffectively the few that it has produced, as does Nigeria." He goes on to point out that an "economist with a Ph.D. degree (specializing in banking) who is working in the Federal Reserve Bank in New York has been informed that he specialized in the wrong field and will not be offered an appointment until Nigeria establishes a central bank.

UNEMPLOYED EMPLOYABLES

A brilliant economist of outstanding administrative ability has been transferred from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to the Nigerianization Office where he has practically nothing to do. A Nigerian dental surgeon is working in a Federal hospital as a storekeeper," while Dr. Awa himself, while doing "service as an Assistant Secretary in the Federal Government Ministry of Research and Information, had a job which included receiving and opening the mail, but if the mail was confidential or secret, he could not open it—the secretary-typist would take over," although he was her superior and holding an executive administrative post. He continues: "Again and again there have been reports of the difficulties that Nigerians trained in agriculture, engineering, tc., experience in getting placed in jobs." All of this is espe-

cially true if these highly qualified people are graduates of American institutions, for the British bosses have strong feelings against employing Nigerians trained in America and make it extremely difficult for them to get placed.

Again, although the Government is supposed to be undertaking a Nigerianization program to replace expatriate British workers with accomplished Nigerians, the program is moving at such a slow pace that practically every newspaper of consequence has editorialized against the discrepancy between promise and practice and the continued recruiting of inferior, poorly prepared Britons to take good jobs. This is particularly true at the University College, where better qualified Nigerians are refused appointments. Educationally speaking, although agriculture is the base of the territory's economy, it is one of the least important subjects and smallest disciplines of subjects taught at University College, which is supposed to be training Nigerians to cope with the problems of their country.

These are only a few of the many odd situations now obtaining in this West African British dependency. But it is sufficient to help point out why the territory is having such a hard time trying to get organized to gain independence. Worst of it, though, is that at present there does not seem to be any leader of national scope on the scene who has the strength and appeal to the casses to overcome this disunited trend, one who can coagulate the national will into a united block in order to present to the British overlords a really solid front. One can only wonder in this land of paradoxes what will happen when April 2, 1960, rolls around, the date Nigerian leaders say they intend to declare themselves free. Unless something can be done to resolve all these disturbing elements to unification, Nigerian hoped for independence two years hence is going to face a climaxing crisis, the results of which one does not like to anticipate.

YOUTH *and college delegates in attendance at the West conference held at Asilomar, California, September 19-22, 1957.*

Harry L. Cox

Looking and Listening . . .

HOUSING

HOUSING is still one of the most pressing problems facing Negroes, especially in our large urban centers. Robert S. Bird writing in the New York *Herald Tribune* (December 2, 1957) says that New York City Negroes, for example, even though they have made great advances, are "paying more for inferior housing." His dollar can buy him almost anything the white man's dollar will buy, except a place to live.

. . . "The Negro has to pay an inflated price for inferior shelter in a neighborhood he wouldn't choose if he had the freedom of choice."

He goes on:

The fast-rising Negro population of this city is spreading rapidly in all directions and in all boroughs. Moving just ahead of the block-by-block Negro expansion in Manhattan and much of Brooklyn are the new Puerto Rican neighborhoods. The Negroes are expected to follow the Puerto Ricans.

The two peoples have spread over almost all of Manhattan. And a large section of Brooklyn. The Negroes are penetrating through a big part of the East and South Bronx, and a huge area around Jamaica and the St. Albans section of Queens.

But none of this is a true dispersal of Negroes among whites. What is spreading are concentrations of Negroes. Negro ghettos are expanding. All-Negro neighborhoods are enlarging into bigger all-Negro neighborhoods. Newly penetrated white neighborhoods are being transformed into new all-Negro residential enclaves.

In a true dispersal, whites and Negroes would live beside each other in fully stabilized neighborhoods. But that is not happening.

Transitional neighborhoods may give the appearance of being 'integrated' for a time. But sooner or later the Negroes predominate and eventually preempt it. The trend is always toward consolidation of Negro tenancy.

The Negroes are not to blame for this, nor is the situation to their liking. In fact, they are the victims of it.

The causes are a monumental shortage of low and moderate-cost housing in the city combined with the hard residential discrimination against the Negro race. The pressures for ever more Negro housing, especially low-cost housing, are irresistible.

Negroes are not, as many whites suppose, overtly driving out the whites. The Negro's housing dollar buys where it can, and the only place it can buy is in neighborhoods that are already changing, already overcrowded, already deteriorating, or already suffering from obsolescence. . . .

Though profit-hungry real estate dealers, both white and Negro, occasionally engage in neighborhood 'panic campaigns to frighten white homeowners into making quick sales of their homes on the threat that Negroes are moving in, these are exaggerated details in the picture.

The Negroes simply buy into a neighborhood already on the downgrade, and very often the inflated prices they pay for a piece of 'white' property provides down payment for the outgoing white family's new home in the suburbs.

A down-grading neighborhood has a tendency to continue that way no matter who goes on living there. But when the white man's dollar is willing to pay for up-grading housing, it can buy it. An example is the Upper East Side today. There old tenement houses are being torn down on all sides to make way for new luxury—rental apartment houses to supply the white housing demand in that neighborhood. . . .

NEGRO NEW YORK

THE problems of Negro housing in New York are, of course, tied in with the phenomenal increase in the city's nonwhite population. According to a recent report by The New York State Commission Against Discrimination, there has been an increase of 41.3 percent in the city's nonwhite population, against a decline of 5.9 percent for whites.

"Each of the five boroughs," says the report, "showed an increase in nonwhite population from 1950 to 1957. Three of the five, meanwhile, experienced decreases in white population. But the changes in number of whites and nonwhites within individual boroughs bear little apparent relationship to each other. Manhattan, for example, has the largest proportional loss (11.6 percent) and the second largest numerical loss (180,815) in white population. But it also had the smallest proportional and second-smallest numerical gain in nonwhite population—only 3.7 percent, or 14,783. On the other hand, Queens, with the largest proportional increase in nonwhites, was one of only two boroughs showing a gain in whites.

"In the over-all pattern, it would appear that the growth in the nonwhite population of Manhattan has slowed virtually to a standstill, while there is increasing dispersion of nonwhites to each of the other four boroughs. However, Manhattan still has by far the largest nonwhite proportion of the five. In both the Bronx and Queens, the number of nonwhites more than doubled between 1950 and 1957. In Brooklyn and Richmond, the number increased by from 50 to 60 percent. The Census figures clearly indicate that nonwhites, once concentrated largely in Manhattan, are spreading out throughout both the city and the surrounding counties of the metropolitan area at an increasingly rapid rate."

CIVIL RIGHTS

OSCAR Handlin of Harvard writes on the consequences of "the politics of moderation" in "Civil Rights After Little Rock" (*Commentary*, November 1957). Subtitle of Dr. Handlin's article is "The Failure of Moderation." We quote the first five paragraphs:

The puzzling course, in recent months, of the struggle for equal rights for the Negro reflects the dominant mood of American politicians today. The conjunction of victory with defeat, of crablike advance and prudent withdrawal, is the consequence of the overwhelming acceptance of the politics of moderation.

It has become a truism that effective political action depends upon com-

promise. Only by evading issues, and particularly ideological issues, can a statesman retain enough support to permit the placid operation of government. Any showdown is to be avoided as far as possible, for it alienates substantial segments of power and opinion.

Yet a policy that makes moderation the highest virtue runs the grave risk of exposing itself to the pressures of extremists who keep raising the price of their acquiescence. Moderation is often mistaken for weakness, and thus becomes a standing temptation to the blackmailer. This has been the history of Negro rights since 1954.

The paradoxes are apparent. On the one hand, there has been measurable advance. All the border states have taken some steps toward integration. The civil rights bill, enacted in the summer of this year, was a victory, not so much in its actual provisions, as in setting a precedent for overcoming the veto power of the Southern bloc in Congress. And beyond these political measures is the genuine progress made by Negroes in raising their own economic level and in asserting their right to vote. This program, in the long run, may be as important as immediate legislative or judicial gains.

Yet side by side with these favorable developments there has been a hardening of intransigent segregationist attitudes in the Deep South. Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama have made no move to comply with the law. On the contrary, these states have bent all their energies to circumventing the law; they have often acted as if it were still possible for them to secede from the United States; they have aggressively asserted an anachronistic and flimsy doctrine of states' rights. Meanwhile, the White Citizens Councils have gained strength; they have moved to disband Negro organizations like the NAACP and to prevent any further implementing of the Court's decision. Such are the less pleasant consequences of moderation. . . .

"NKRUMAH'S DILEMMA"

DAVID APTER ("What's Happening in Ghana," *Africa: Special Report,* November 1957) tries to clear up the puzzle of the Ghana atmosphere. Is Nkrumah basically a dictator, as his enemies say? If not, how explain some of his recent dictatorial actions? Mr. Apter says that

Nkrumah is now freed of the often subtle and restraining influences of British authority and a Governor whom he admired. He feels he must live up to a wide variety of promises he made about what would happen when independence came, including the promise of African dignity and stature inherent in the very achievement of independence. In other words, he has a great deal to live up to, not only as the leader of a new country, but as a spearhead of African achievement. Hence there is an initial difficulty in his role. He must first decide how much he will dedicate himself overwhelmingly to the needs of the people of Ghana and subordinate himself to their wishes, and how much he wants to use Ghana as the source of power, a kind of private preserve, for his career as a pan-African leader.

In order to do the latter, he must keep his leadership of Ghana. If he should face real opposition and criticism, his prestige and his position as a pan-African leader are in jeopardy. If he should be unpopular in his own country, he can scarcely claim the loyalties of people in other countries. Hence Nkrumah has the difficulty of deciding to what extent he is a parliamentary leader in Ghana, and how much he is to be the leader of a pan-African movement. He is fully aware

that the prominence Ghana has received in the world is not due to her pre-eminence in economic or political power, as Premier Awolowo of Western Nigeria recently reminded Mr. Nkrumah, but in her timing as the first colonial territory to achieve independence and her apparent willingness to become a modern democratic state. . . .

BLACK STAR LINE

THE first step towards the inauguration of Ghana's national shipping line was taken on September 10 with the formal execution of the necessary documents. In the offices of the Ministry of Trade and Development the principal document, which is the Memorandum of Agreement, was signed, on behalf of the Ghana Government by Kojo Botsio, minister of trade and development and F. Y. Asare, minister of communications. W. M. Q. Halm witnessed the signatures of the signatories who signed on behalf of the Ghana Government. Dr. H. Wydra and Dr. S. Friedman signed on behalf of the Zim Israeli Navigation Company Limited, the other contracting party.

The name of this Ghana shipping line will be "Black Star Line." The initial authorised capital is £500,000 which is to be subscribed by the Ghana Government and the Zim Israeli Navigation Company Limited in the proportion of 60 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. It is proposed to start the Black Star Line with one ship which will ply mainly between Mediterranean and European ports and West Africa.

FICTION WRITING

RALPH ELLISON, whose novel *Invisible Man* won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1952, is among ten important contemporary American writers to contribute to *The Living Novel,* a Symposium edited by Granville Hicks and published by Macmillan.

In *The Living Novel,* Mr. Ellison joins nine other writers in defending this form of fiction against its critics. In his essay, "Society, Morality, and the Novel, he stresses his view of the novel as a means of communication, and discusses the effect of the Civil War and the reconstruction period on subsequent American literature.

Mr. Ellison was born in Oklahoma City in 1914. With the aid of a scholarship from the State of Oklahoma, he attended Tuskegee Institute, and he later studied sculpture and music in New York City, before turning to writing. His work has appeared in such magazines as *Horizon,* the *Reporter,* and the *Saturday Review.* The prize-winning *Invisible Man* is his only novel so far. In 1955 he was awarded the Prix de Rome of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and he has recently been living in Italy.

"ABOLITIONSM: The white man took willingly the black man as a burden, but hesitates to take him as friend."

Dagobert D. Runes, *A Book of Contemplation*

Dr. W. A. Fingal, second vice-president of the East St. Louis, Illinois, branch presents his $500 check for an NAACP life membership to Mrs. R. Silvers in the presence of Dr. John Eubanks, branch president.

President Dr. John Eubanks of the East St. Louis branch presenting his $500 NAACP life membership check to branch secretary Mrs. Rose Silvers in the presence of Dr. Fingal.

Dr. Herbert Erwin of St. Louis, Missouri, presents his $500 NAACP life membership check to secretary Mrs. R. Silvers.

Richard Cleveland, Worshipful Master of King Solomon Lodge 87, F&AM, Prince Hall Affiliate, of Warren, Ohio, donates $50 to the Warren branch in its 1957 fighting fund for freedom drive. Mrs. James Culver, Sr., chairman of the drive, is receiving the check.

Reginald Funn, president of the Springfield, Massachusetts, branch receives a $50 check on behalf of the Delta Chi chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity from Joseph Berry (R), basileus, on behalf of the OPP.

Rev. Robert Blossom, pastor of the Union Baptist church, Morristown, New Jersey, receives an NAACP life membership plaque from Marion Stewart on behalf of his church.

Mrs. Josephine Murphy (L), president of the Atlanta University alumni association, presents $100 check to Atlanta branch secretary Mrs. Eunice Cooper as second installment on the AUAA's NAACP life membership.

Mrs. Minerva Hawkins of Pi chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority makes first $50 NAACP life membership payment to Nashville, Tennessee, branch president Rev. Kelley Smith on behalf of her sorority.

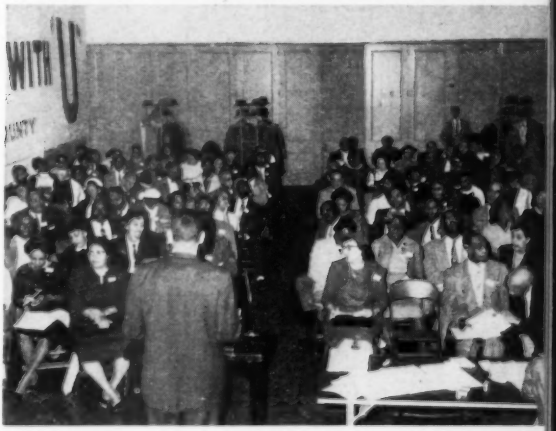
Fred Wilhoite, Polemarch of the Denver, Colorado, chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, makes initial payment to Denver branch president LeJean Clark (R) on his chapter's NAACP life membership.

Rev. W. H. Sypert, pastor of the McGee Avenue Baptist church, Berkeley, California, accepts NAACP life membership plaque from Mrs. Terea Pittman, NAACP field secretary, on behalf of this church.

Virginia State Beauticians Association pays second installment on NAACP life membership to Dr. J. M. Tinsley, NAACP board member and Richmond branch president.

Virginia lawyers receive their NAACP life membership plaques: from L, front, Victor Ashe, Martin A. Martin, Oliver Hill, Franklin Williams, guest speaker; Dr. J. M. Tinsley, Philip Walker; back row, S. W. Tucker, Roland Ealey, Jerry Williams, Reuben Lawson, and Hale Thompson.

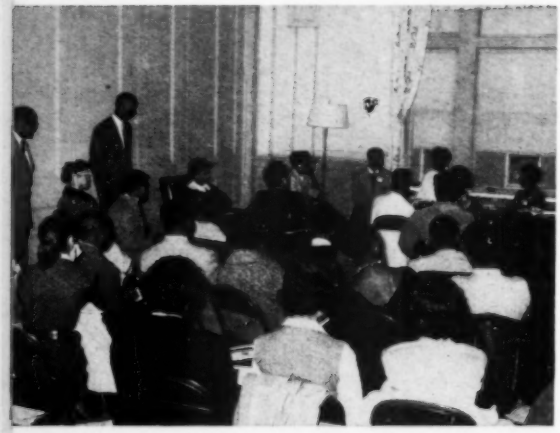
Officers of the Pennsylvania conference of branches, youth councils, and college chapters following their election at the annual conference October 25-27.



Delegates in a business session of the Pennsylvania 23rd annual Pennsylvania conference. The registration of 139 delegates was the largest in the history of the state conference.

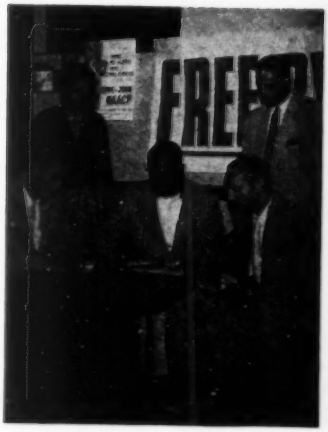
Mrs. Florence Reizenstein of Pittsburgh, winner of the 1957 civil-rights award, was cited for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Pittsburgh branch, as a member of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations, and as a commissioner of the state FEPC.

Wydoline Carter of New Kensington and William Young of Philadelphia were crowned queen and king respectively of the Pennsylvania NAACP conference held in Reading, Pa., October 25-27, 1957.



Youth council members from Pennsylvania branches participate in an applying-for-jobs workshop during the Pennsylvania conference.

Scene at the president's luncheon during the conference. Principal speaker Atty. Henry R. Smith, Jr., made a stirring plea to the conference to help wipe out racial discrimination in Pennsylvania.



Life members are signed up by the Milwaukee branch. They are, from L. Henry Aaron and Billy Bruton of the Milwaukee Braves. Felix Mantilla took out a gold certificate membership.

Herbert L. Wright, youth secretary of the NAACP, presents the Masters Sergeant Joseph E. Wyatt youth award to one of the officers of the Vallejo, California, youth council. The award is granted annually to the youth council in the west coast region which during the preceding year has done the most outstanding work in membership, fund raising, etc.

"INTEGRATIO

beyond our

says Superintendent of Wilmington, Del

The goal of racial equality comes closer eve

moment . . . never before was your suppo

of NAACP so important . .

Become a life member . . . . . TODA

LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Mrs. Nellie G. Roulhac
Ike Smalls
Dr. Alfred E. Thomas, J
Mrs. Pauline F. Weeder

has succeeded

ndest hopes"

Delaware Schools as reported in *The New York Times*

From Wilmington, Delaware, comes heartening news . . . proof that racial integration in the schools can work . . . that when men of good faith, black and white, earnestly seek an answer to a common problem, that problem can be solved. To doubters of the Supreme Court's decision banning racial segregation in the schools, the experience in Wilmington is a challenging answer. This community has accepted integration. From elementary school to high school, integration, following the law of our land, is successful. It can succeed elsewhere . . . and to this end the NAACP devotes its full support. Will you help us? Become a lifetime NAACP member today!

Send to your local branch or the

N.A.A.C.P.

20 West 40th Street
New York 18, N. Y.

I wish to become a Life Member of the NAACP.

☐ I enclose check for $..... as first payment toward a Life Membership.

☐ I enclose check for $500 for full Life Membership.

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....

Editorials

ABOLISHING MACON COUNTY

NOTHING but evil—and certainly nothing good for the democratic process in Alabama—can emerge from the recent decision of Alabama voters to change their state constitution so as to allow the Legislature to abolish Macon County. The vote from 1,420 of the State's 2,700 precincts gave 43,329 for the constitutional change and 31,993 against. Not all Alabama voters, of course, favored the change. Mobile opposed it, while Birmingham was for it by a very narrow margin. The largest margins came from the rural areas.

Advocates of the constitutional change abolishing the county said it was necessary in order to prevent Negroes from controlling the county government, especially in view of recent federal civil-rights legislation. But the change is a gigantic fraud on the democratic citizens of Alabama. And, as NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins puts it: "An open confession to the nation that Alabama will go to any lengths in order to prevent Negro citizens from enjoying their constitutional rights." It is an arrogant gesture of the political power of the disfranchising South which is gripping and gasping to hold on to its rotten boroughs and obsolescent racism.

THE BILL sponsoring the constitutional change was introduced into the Legislature by State Senator Sam Englehart, Jr., who represents Macon and adjoining Bullock County. Mr. Englehart is executive secretary of the Alabama Association of Citizens Councils, an anti-integration group, and a bitter foe of the May 17, 1954, Supreme Court decision. The bitter irony of this political maneuver is that it strips a segment of the State's best-educated citizens of their rights and banishes them to a non-pollable limbo. Remember that the county seat, Tuskegee, is also the location of Tuskegee Institute, one of the world's leading educational institutions. The school was founded by a Negro, the late Booker T. Washington, and has always been run by Negroes. Surely here is a group of citizens who are well qualified by experience and training to be entrusted with a voice in the management of their own county government. One does not ask privileges for the ignorant and shiftless simply because they happen to be black. But one does expect an enlightened democracy to make the best use of its educated citizens, regardless of their race or creed or color.

REGISTRATION CONFERENCE

THE CRISIS believes that the conference sponsored in Atlanta, Georgia, by the NAACP on November 16-17, 1957, to discuss registration and voting among Negroes, one of the most significant held by Negroes in recent years. Despite the tremendous advances of recent years, southern Negroes

still suffer grievously from many things which could be corrected if they had a larger voice in the running of their local and state governments. Leaving the majority of eligible Negro voters out of government affairs is largely responsible for the current crop of blatant and irresponsible Southern politicians who orate on the southern hustings, filibuster in Congress, and support the White Citizens Councils.

With passage of H. R. 6127, the civil-rights bill, last year, the main obstructions to Negro voting in the South have been removed. The problem now is to make Negroes aware of their new political status and to induce them to register and vote. They must take part in city, county, state, and national elections. As the "Conference Statement" puts it: "[Negroes who do not vote] remain at the mercy of political cliques which too often have been indifferent, if not hostile, to their needs. Only through free participation in the electrical process can Negro Americans in the South hope to achieve full citizenship."

THE present potential of Negro votes in the South is said to be six million. But the NAACP goal, surely a modest one, is to get at least three million Negroes to register, which will bring the Negro percentage of voters up to the same proportion as white voters in the population. The vote is one of the most effective weapons in the fight for integration.

DR. EMMETT J. SCOTT

THE death of Dr. Emmett J. Scott in Washington, D. C., on December 12, 1957, at the age of 84, may be said to mark the end of an era in Negro-white relations in America. Dr. Scott was secretary to Dr. Booker T. Washington and later of Tuskegee Institute. He was also special assistant to Secretary of War Newton D. Baker during World War I.

Dr. Scott might be said to have belonged to the "compromise school" of race relations. While he believed in complete equality for his people, he felt that this goal could be best achieved by education, a minimum of political participation, and indirection rather than a frontal assault upon the bastions of segregation. Dr. Scott was a distinguished American whose advice was sought by his fellows citizens in many areas of American life. He will be missed by his relatives, friends, and associates.

CONGRATULATIONS

THE CRISIS congratulates Ruth Carol Taylor on becoming the first Negro stewardess in the history of American commercial aviation. Miss Taylor, of New York City, will be assigned to flights on the Mohawk Airlines between Watertown and Niagara, New York, and Detroit, Michigan. We also wish to congratulate Mrs. L. C. Bates, of Little Rock, and Althea Gibson, of New York City, for nomination by the Women's editors of Associated Press papers for outstanding performances in their fields during 1957.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

CONVICTION APPEALED

ATTORNEYS for Mrs. L. C. Bates, president of the Arkansas State Conference of NAACP Branches, have filed notice of an appeal from her conviction under a new city ordinance designed to make the Association reveal its lists of members in Little Rock.

United Press

MRS. L. C. BATES, *president of the Arkansas state conference of the NAACP, confers with NAACP lawyer Robert Carter in Little Rock after she was fined $100 and court costs of $150 in municipal court for failure to open confidential records of the NAACP in compliance with a recently enacted city ordinance.*

Cecil Layne

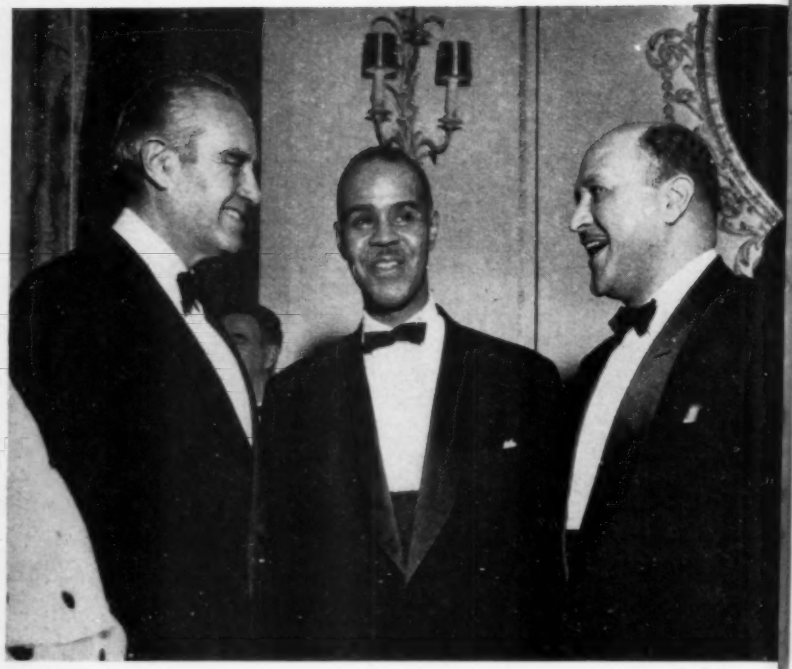
ARTHUR B. SPINGARN, *president of the NAACP, prepares to present a scroll to Duke Ellington at the NAACP's November 22, 1957, Freedom Fund Dinner in New York City.*

Mrs. Bates was convicted on December 3 and fined $100 and ordered to pay court costs amounting to $150 because she refused to turn over membership and contributors lists to city authorities as required by a law sponsored by Bruce Bennett, state attorney general.

Also arrested was Rev. J. C. Crenchaw, president of the Little Rock NAACP branch. Charges against Mr. Crenchaw, however, were dismissed by Judge Harry Robinson when it was indicated that he had not been requested to produce records covered by the law.

Representing Mrs. Bates and Mr. Crenchaw were Robert L. Carter of New York, the Association's general counsel; Frank Reeves of Washington, and George Howard of Pine Bluff.

Meanwhile there is pending in the United States District Court, an NAACP suit challenging the constitutionality of the "Bennett" ordinance. Also following action by Little Rock, the City of North Little Rock pro-



Cecil Layne

NEW YORK *Governor Averell Harriman, NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins, and New York rent commissioner Robert C. Weaver at the NAACP's November 22, 1957, Freedom Fund Dinner in New York which honored Duke Ellington and Branch Rickey, Sr.*

ceeded to issue subpoenas to officers of the NAACP branch in that city to submit records revealing the names and addresses of members and contributors.

CHURCH SUPPORT

THE NAACP has formulated a new four-point program designed to mobilize the support of organized religious groups in the current civil-rights struggle. The program, outlined by NAACP church secretary Rev. Edward J. Odom, Jr., has been designated "Churches for Freedom."

He indicated that the effort to enlist religious bodies has been undertaken because of the moral nature of the NAACP drive to eliminate segregation and bigotry in American life.

Mr. Odom described the "Churches for Freedom" program as follows:

1. Coordinated social action programs among church groups for the purpose of securing dedicated participation in the current NAACP registration and voting campaign.

2. Special religious education projects intended to establish lines of communication between Negro and white church groups to serve as a basis for mutual understanding and the improvement of community attitudes on racial questions.

3. Planned "Churches for Freedom" religious services on local state, and regional levels to bring moral and spiritual dimensions into the question of full citizenship rights.

4. Increased participation of local church groups in the NAACP's life membership campaign, to give religious bodies an opportunity to join civic, labor, and social organizations in making a material investment in the civil-rights fight.

Generally, the new program will "seek to stimulate and channel social action and spiritual, educational and financial activity in cooperation with the NAACP," Mr. Odom explained.

He said the effort will be implemented through NAACP state and local church committees.

The Association "is encouraged by the increasing concern exhibited by organized religious groups in the current integration crisis, particularly in the South," Mr. Odom added.

THE *Rev. Mr. Kelly Miller Smith (standing), president of the Nashville, Tennessee, branch of the NAACP accepts a $400 check as final payment on an NAACP life membership for the local Alpha Delta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority from Mrs. Geraldine Fort, chapter president. An earlier $100 payment had initiated the $500 contribution.*

IN MEMORIAM: Reginald Saunders, Jr.

HOW long shall a man live? September 7, 1925 to May 30, 1957—not quite 32 years—was the answer for Reginald Saunders, Jr. But years alone are not the measure: what is done with them, what achievements of the spirit are encompassed within them, and what legacy they leave—these are the true measure of a life. And by these standards, Reginald Saunders' life was vast and rich.

The bare outlines tell us only that he was born in Oakland, California, that he served in the United States Maritime Service during World War II, that he was graduated in 1950 from the University of California as a chemist, and that his death, in Los Angeles, resulted from an accident during work in his chosen field. He lived for a time in New York City.

But, whatever his occupation, wherever he happened to be, he was a tireless worker for justice and for human dignity. His mother, Mrs. Lillian Brand Richter, through whom we have all our knowledge of him, writes that "he crossed state lines rather than eat in a restaurant that did not serve colored people on an equality with white," and that "Up until the day of his death he was working on some team here that tried out motels and hotels to see if they really treated colored and white people the same."

The stones he cast into the water continue to yield an ever-widening series of ripples. An NAACP letter appealing for funds last June was received by his mother. She, too, had come within the range of Reginald Saunders, Jr.'s abiding concern for his fellows. She writes: "I never had any racial prejudice—but it was a subject I never thought about. It never really entered my life until my son made me think about it."

Now, through his mother's own gifts and those of his friends, joined at her solicitation, an imperishable memorial has been established: a Life Membership in Memoriam for Reginald Saunders, Jr. A fit tribute to a life well-lived.

Rev. Richard Hildebrand (L), president Manhattan division of the Protestant Council of New York City, makes initial $100 payment on his NAACP life membership to Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary. Rev. Hildebrand is pastor of Bethel AME church on West 132nd St., New York City.

Cecil Layne

New

Junior Life Membership

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has established a new membership classification — the Junior Life Membership for children under 13 years of age.

The Association's Board of Directors approved this new $100 membership in order to

- give parents, other relatives and friends, an opportunity to express their faith in a child's future
- give the child an opportunity to grow up with the hopes of the NAACP and an understanding of the Association's program and objectives
- help the NAACP assure a better life for our children, free from the insult and indignity of Jim Crow
- help the NAACP build a strong youth movement dedicated to the elimination of racial discrimination and segregation
- enlist children in support of efforts to attain a society in which each person shall be judged only on the basis of his individual merit.

If you agree with these objectives and want your child enrolled in this crusade, give him a Junior Life Membership for his birthday, or for Christmas, or for any other occasion. The cost is only $100.

THE *Fin de Siècle Club of Columbus, Ohio, a group of civic-minded women, has made its first $100 payment on an NAACP life membership. The club was organized fifty years ago as a charity club. Pictured from L, front, are Mrs. Robert Washington, Mrs. Hazel Truitt, chairman NAACP life membership committee; Mrs. C. W. Bryant, vice-president; Mrs. I. A. Williams, and Mrs. Shelly LaMonte; standing, Mrs. Cecil Washington, Mrs. Frank Davis, secretary; Mrs. Samuel Walters, Mrs. Ira Kendall, Edna Lucas, Mrs. Ray Hughes, assistant secretary; Mrs. Harry Jefferson, treasurer. Mrs. Edward Allen, club president, is not shown in the picture.*

JUNIOR LIFE MEMBERS

AN infant girl less than a year old, Robin Vaughan of Boston, Massachusetts, is one of nineteen children who have been enrolled as junior life members of the NAACP since the new program was announced last September.

Junior life memberships generally have been taken out for the children by a parent or grandparent. Two are partially paid and the remaining seventeen paid in full. The cost of a junior life membership is $100.

Kivie Kaplan of Boston, co-chairman of the Association's life membership committee, has enrolled his five grandchildren as junior life members. They are Amy, Linda, Louis, and Rachel Grossman of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and Michael Green of Waban, Massachusetts .

The other junior life members are Jason Hammond, Stephen James, and Julie Gabel of New York; Karen Breach and Jeffrey Strachen of

TWO OFFICERS *of the Gay Northeasterners, New York City chapter, present a check for an NAACP life membership to Jackie Robinson, national chairman of the NAACP's 1957 fund-raising campaign. At left is Mrs. Christine White, president, and next to her is Mrs. Mary Davies, treasurer. In the background is the bronze plaque in the NAACP national office on which are displayed the names of all NAACP life members.*

Amityville, New York; Charles Matthews, Jr. of Los Angeles; Jess Leach, Jr. of Flint, Michigan; Alfred Lewis III of Greenwich, Connecticut; Kenneth Penn of St. Albans, New York; Herbert Edwards of Philadelphia; Theodore Gibson of Richmond Heights, Florida; Michele McKnight of Cleveland; and Michelle Celestine Lester of Buffalo, New York.

Many of the children have parents or grandparents connected with the NAACP. Alfred Lewis is the grandson of Alfred Baker Lewis, a member of the Association's board of directors. Jason Hammond is the son of John Hammond, an NAACP vice-president. Jess Leach, Jr., is the child of Dr. J. Leonidas Leach, a board member of the NAACP. Stephen James' mother, Mrs. Ruth James, has been active in NAACP work for a number of years. Theodore Gibson's father, Father Theodore Gibson, is president of the Miami, Florida, NAACP branch. Michelle McKnight is the daughter of William T. McKnight, a member of the executive committee of the Cleveland NAACP branch.

Junior life memberships were established for children under 13 years of age.

DONATIONS TO NAACP

FORTY employees of New York City's Grand Central Terminal have contributed a total of $200 to the Association. All forty contributors became NAACP members.

A campaign for support of the NAACP was conducted by Charles B. Paul, a Grand Central employee. This marks the second year that Mr. Paul has undertaken such a campaign.

In a letter to NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins, in which a $200 check was enclosed, Mr. Paul declared:

"My fellow workers at the Grand Central Station in New York know how strongly I feel about the struggle of our people and the need for able leadership such as we have found in you, realizing [that] without our help and support your efforts will be in vain. I appealed to my groups as I did last year. . . ."

The New York City chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity collected nearly $350 in NAACP donations from guests at the chapter's annual formal dance last November 15. Alpha Gamma Lambda chapter officials presented the sum to Robert L. Carter, the Association's general counsel. The exact amount was $336.45.

The Cleveland, Ohio, branch closed its membership campaign on November 21 with 11,200 members and $45,700 in funds. The campaign opened on September 15 with a public meeting at which Roy Wilkins was the featured speaker and closed with a series of "clean-up" meetings in November.

What the Branches Are Doing

California: The refusal of a local homeowner, under pressure, to sell baseball star Willie Mays his house opened a Pandora's Box of controversy in San Francisco in November.

The Golden Gate city hummed and buzzed with shock and shame as the star player on the major league team so recently brought to this community ran smack into the housing bias or-

THE *Colored Women's Bowling League of Boston, Massachusetts, takes out a paid-up life membership in the NAACP. Pictured from L are Mrs. Catherine Potter, president and founder; Gladys Welch, treasurer; Kenneth Guscott, chairman life membership committee of the Boston NAACP branch; Rita Mills, Norman Moore; and Attorney Herbert E. Tucker, Jr., Boston branch president.*

STUDENTS SUPPORT NAACP—*The 1957 class of the Winston-Salem Teachers College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, presents its check for a $500 paid-up NAACP life membership. Pictured from L are Robert Trotter, membership chairman; Dr. Lillian Lewis, college chapter advisor; Mrs. Bessie White, senior class advisor; and Barbara Kinard, senior class president and past president of the Winston-Salem youth council.*

dinary Negroes are made to bear daily.

Walter A. Gnesdiloff, owner of the $37,500 Miraloma Drive house involved, claimed he was forced to back out on the deal with Mays by local residents of that racially exclusive street. Some of the calls Gnesdiloff received came from persons high on San Francisco's social ledger.

One man, who is opposed to the idea of having Mays as a neighbor, operates a chain of theatres in the Fillmore district, a heavy Negro populated section. A woman resident of the Miraloma area, member of a prominent, bread-making family, also put herself on record against the Mays' moving in.

Fearing jeopardy to his livelihood as a contractor, Gnesdiloff sought to return the downpayment Mays had tendered.

At this point, the San Francisco *Chronicle*, the sole local daily employing Negro newsmen, called public attention to the matter in a by-lined re-

port covering several columns. Next, radio and T.V. commentators moved in to interview the "Say Hey" Kid.

While news reports were still being phoned in to city desks, Mayor George Christopher, fresh from a vacation to his native Greece, sent a personal note to Willie Mays and family inviting them to be his house quest until they could secure suitable dwelling.

As T.V. cameras hummed away, and "baseballer" Mays attempted to explain his not-so-embittered feeling, Mrs. Mays, his attractive spouse, received a call from Gnesdiloff rescinding the refusal to sell. Newsmen picked up this latest and relieving development and hopped off to grind out the glad tidings.

May beamed into the T.V. cameras, "happy that the situation is now cleared up."

The Gnesdiloff's, now returned to stature, announced nobly to the press that "We are doing this [selling to Mays] for the good of San Francisco."

But the NAACP refused to let San Francisco slide in for a homerun on what was earlier a strikeout. Regional and local officers, while commending Mayor Christopher and chiding Gnesiloff not to reverse himself "again," called for official action by the local government to deal with what the Association's spokesmen termed a "daily" drama "enacted upon hapless Negroes. . . . whose lack of prominence does not command the attention of the press and official San Francisco."

Connecticut: A $1,800 check to help counteract "an atmosphere of hate, intolerance and bigotry" was presented to the NEW LONDON branch on November 24 at a rally conducted at

AS *featured speaker at a meeting of the Tri-City, New Jersey, branch of the NAACP Rev. Ralph Abnernathy of Montgomery, Alabama, helped the branch raise more than $500. Pictured from L are Rev. John Carrington, minister of Wallace Chapel of the AME Zion church of Summit; Rev. Abnernathy; and Rev. Leon Riddick, pastor of the Fountain Baptist church, Summit.*

Cecil Layne

MEMBERS *of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Lodge of Holy Royal Arch Masons, State of New York, are supporting the NAACP by taking out a life membership. Pictured from L are (all of New York City) James McFarlin, deputy at large; Dillard Stone, trustee; Fred Jackson, grand secretary; O. H. Thompson, deputy grand priest; Frederick Reyonlds, grand high priest; Marion Stewart, NAACP representative; Edmund Austin, grand scribe; Fred Johns, senior past grand high priest; Clyde Wiley, grand lecturer; Charles Pierce, district deputy grand high priest; and Charles Greenidge, grand chaplain.*

the Bulkeley Junior High School. The fund was raised in connection with the eastern Connecticut campaign backed by the New London branch. Mrs. Marjorie Brown, branch president, handed the check to Franklin Williams, NAACP west coast representative, who was the rally speaker.

Florida: The Rev. A. Leon Lowry, pastor of the Beulah Baptist church, Tampa, has been elected president of the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches.

The MIAMI branch recently held a huge mass meeting, with Thurgood Marshall as speaker. The branch is backing a suit against the Dade county school board asking the board to desegregate.

The TAMPA branch has begun a drive for the registration of all qualified voters by the end of 1958.

Kansas: The PARSONS branch freedom fund committee sponsored a popularity contest among the churches during November.

Illinois: The CHICAGO branch called for a city-wide conference early in December on the problems of segregation and discrimination in the city's public schools.

Iowa: Installation of new officers of the Iowa State Conference of NAACP Branches was made at Burlington on October 27. These officers are A. P. Trotter, president; Edwin White, second vice-president; Mrs. Marie Johnson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Guy Green, secretary; Mrs. Viola Gibson, treasurer; Mrs. Helen Burke, first vice-president; and Mrs. Georgine Morris, president emeritus.

Massachusetts: Kivie Kaplan, a prominent businessman, was honored with the dedication of a building in his name by the BOSTON branch of the NAACP during November.

Kivie Kaplan of Chestnut Hill was singled out by the local branch because of his dedicated effort on behalf of the NAACP. Herbert Tucker, president of the order, pointed out, "Mr. Kaplan has been one of the most outstanding members of the Association for a good many years and has been selected for this honor because of his work for our people all over the country."

The actual dedication of the building in Mr. Kaplan's honor was the first move of its kind here in New England by the NAACP. The building will house the Boston branch's headquarters and will be known as the "Kivie Kaplan Life Membership Building.

Lionel Lindsay of Boston, former chapter president and dedication ceremonies chairman, explained that "Mr. Kaplan brought national fame to the Boston chapter when he recently obtained his 150th life membership application. This, without a doubt," Mr. Lindsay continued, "is an amazing feat and never before accomplished."

A host of national, local and civic leaders attended the dedication, including representatives from the Governor's and Mayor's offices. Marion Stewart, of the national office, took

A relic of a fast-disappearing southern custom. A for-white-only public drinking fountain near Stuart, Florida.

part in the program and Edward W. Brooks was the keynote speaker. Mr. Brooks is a local attorney and National Judge Advocate in the Amvet Association.

Michigan: Nearly 200 persons attended a testimonial banquet honoring six members who have served as officers of the PORT HURON branch since it was organized on January 22, 1934.

The six, who have served the branch since it was organized in 1934, are LeRoy J. King Sr., Dr. and Mrs. John R. Ware, Mrs. Gussie Turner, Wilbur B. Hazely and William Glover.

City Commissioner Miss Etta M. Reid; Circuit Judge Edward T. Kane; Rev. J. A. Abraham, pastor of St. Paul AME church; Rev. G. W. Taylor, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist church; Dr. Ware, and Eleger Harvey spoke.

LeRoy J. King, Sr., was branch secretary from 1934 through 1948, and from 1949 to date he has been branch president.

Dr. John Ware was branch president from 1945 through 1948, and executive member from 1949 to date.

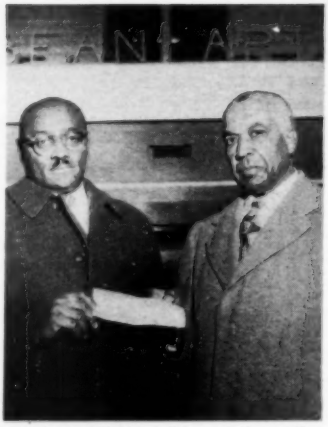
Mrs. Eva C. Ware was treasurer from 1934 through 1955, until illness forced her to resign. She is now an executive member.

Mrs. Gussie Turner has been an executive member from 1934 to date.

William Glover was an executive member from 1934 through 1943, vice-president in 1944, and executive member to date.

Wilbur B. Hazely was executive member from 1934 through 1948, vice-president during 1949 and 1950, and executive member from 1951 to date.

Minnesota: The regular monthly meeting of the MINNEAPOLIS branch was held on November 17 in the Zion Baptist church, 1023 Lyndale Avenue North.



THOMAS BEAN (R) *prominent Denver, Colorado, business man, presents $500 check to NAACP branch president LeJean Clark for NAACP life membership.*

Missouri: Mrs. Daisy L. Bates, president of the Arkansas State NAACP Conference, was cited by the ST. LOUIS branch at its fourth annual NAACP freedom fund tea on November 10 as "A woman of courage."

New York: THE CENTRAL LONG ISLAND branch contributed $50 and collected $25 which was sent to the *Arkansas State Press*, Mrs. L. C. Bates' newspaper in Little Rock.

The BRONX branch has organized a branch church committee under the sponsorship of Rev. Louis Holiday, assistant to the pastor of Victory Baptist church.

Oklahoma: The Oklahoma State Conference of NAACP Branches held its twenty-seventh annual convention at TULSA November 21-23.

Join NAACP Today

and help bring about:

1. A federal anti-lynching law to obtain justice in federal courts for brutal, racist-inspired murders of Negroes
2. Federal protection of the basic right to vote
3. Enactment of federal, state and local civil rights legislation, including fair employment practices acts with full enforcement powers
4. Desegregation of the public schools in compliance with the Supreme Court decisions of May 17, 1954 and May 31, 1955
5. Freedom of residence according to one's ability to pay
6. The abolition of Jim Crow practices in public accommodations, including railway and bus transportation
7. Impartial justice in the courts without prejudice because of race, creed or color
8. The end of police brutality

College and School News

The CHURCH OF THE MASTER, at Morningside Avenue and 122nd Street, New York City, was guest on November 10 to foreign students attending COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S AMERICAN LANGUAGE CENTER. Featured in the church program was a panel discussion of "Intergration," in which Thurgood Marshall participated. Dr. James H. Robinson is senior pastor of the church.

■

Negro wives are generally more involved in the economic decisions of their families than are whites, according to a special analysis recently completed by THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DETROIT AREA STUDY. The study substantiates the findings of other researchers who have emphasized the important position held by the wife in the contemporary Negro family.

■

The AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE of Washington, D. C., officially opened its West Africa office on November 19. The Institute, a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization devoted to better understanding between Africa and the United States, has been in existence since February of 1954.

■

The Student Christian Association of WAGNER COLLEGE (Staten Island, N.Y.) presented a program on "Segregation and Integration" on November 18 in the college auditorium.

■

THE PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA has awarded $30,000 as a grant-in-aid for a new three-year study designed to yield basic data on key links in the human reproductive chain. The new study, to be conducted by Dr. M. C. Chang of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, will probe the physiology of human tubal and uterine fluids.

■

The MINISTRY OF EDUCATION of Ghana, West Africa, announces that his government has decided to restrict its financial responsibility for "recurrent expenditures in teacher-training colleges to staff salaries and passages and students' allowances."

■

J. R. Larkins, Negro consultant in the State Department of Welfare, Raleigh, North Carolina, addressed the SHAW UNIVERSITY student body on November 1 on the Negro's position in the American economic structure.

■

An appeal to President Eisenhower "to call a national conference of high school youth concerned with making our schools a living example

of democracy and brotherhood" was made on November 19 by students of fourteen high schools of ASHVILLE and BUNCOMBE counties in North Carolina.

■

The MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE school of nursing has completed a three-day cancer workshop on testing tools in cancer nursing under the direction of Elizabeth Walker, nursing consultant with the field investigations and demonstrations branch of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. She was assisted by Alma Gault, associate professor of nursing at Vanderbilt university.

Dr. L. E. Burgess, professor of physiology, conducted a seminar on "The Study of a New Crystalline Factor Functionally Related to Crystalline Vitamin B12" at the University of California Medical Center at San Francisco on November 8.

The Meharry school of nursing has received a psychiatric nursing training grant of $13,500.

Dr. William H. Allen, dean of the school of dentistry has announced receipt of a $34,500 grant from the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Maryland.

■

"Agricultural and Related Services for a Changing Rural Population" was theme of the fifteenth annual conference of professional agricultural workers at TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE November 24-26.

Dr. Alonzo J. Davis, dean of the school of education, has been granted a leave of absence to go abroad. Dr. Davis will join the staff of the Tuskegee-Indonesia Project at Djakarta, Indonesia, as educational specialist.

■

The National Science Foundation has made a grant of $29,000 to DILLARD UNIVERSITY in support of a summer institute for high school teachers of science.

Dr. Edward E. Riley, Jr., associate professor of biology and chairman of the division of natural sciences at Dillard, has been awarded a three-year grant of $22,600 by the National Cancer Institute of the United States Public Health Service to continue his research in the biological phenomena of cancer.

■

During November the UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND distributed $450,000 among its thirty-one member colleges and universities. This allocation is the second distribution of money raised in the College Fund's 1957 appeal. It brings the total amount received this year by the participating colleges to $1,395,388. Final grants were made after the official closing of the 1957 campaign on December 31.

■

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE held its 90th celebration of founders' day on November 27, with Philip Wagner, editor of the Sunpapers of Baltimore, as the principal speaker.

Morgan was founded by a group of Methodist churchmen and was chartered in 1867 as the Centenary Biblical Institute. It became Morgan College in 1890, and Morgan State College in 1939, when the institu-

tion was purchased by the State of Maryland.

Morgan observed religion-in-life week December 8-12, with the Rev. Howard L. Cornish as director.

Assistant professor of home economics Thelma Vivian Winder has been awarded the Doctor of Education degree by New York University.

■

Harry Golden, editor of the *Carolina Israelite*, was cited by JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY during observance of National Achievement Week.

■

New Yorkers and out-of-town visitors had an opportunity in December to participate in "behind-the-scenes" tours of THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

■

VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct an institute for high school teachers of general science. The institute, which will begin on June 30 and continue through August 8, will be a part of the regular summer school program of the division of graduate studies and research, of which Dr. J. M. Hunter is director.

Virginia State was represented at

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DIRECTOR of ADMISSIONS and PLACEMENT

the thirty-third annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Music by Dr. Thomas C. Bridge. The sessions were held at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois, November 29-30.

■

The twenty-fourth annual conference of the ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS met at VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY December 3-6. The conference theme was "Achieving an Improved Quality of Education." Dr. B. R. Brazeal of Morehouse is president of ACSC.

■

Third guest-lecturer in the annual fall lecture series sponsored by the MOREHOUSE COLLEGE department of sociology was Dr. Butler A. Jones, professor of sociology at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. Dr. Jones, a Morehouse graduate, '37, has been serving as professor of sociology at Ohio Wesleyan since 1952.

■

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Registrar, Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio

William A. Bryant has been appointed head coach and director of the work in physical education at FAYETTEVILLE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE. He succeeds William ("Gus") Gaines, who recently resigned to accept a position as director of programs at the Warrick Training School for Boys, Warrick, New York.

Nine FSTC upper-class students will be listed, on the basis of their scholarship, conduct, etc., in the forthcoming *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.*

■

The conference on urban renewal and housing, sponsored jointly by the Empire Real Estate Board and ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, was held on the university campus November 14-15.

Isaac R. Barfield of Miami, Florida, has received the $500 H. W. Wilson scholarship in the school of library service of the university. He is working toward the degree of M.L.S.

Ralph J. Ross of Baltimore, Maryland, has been awarded the Solomon W. Walker scholarship in the school of business administration of the university. This is an annual scholarship given by the Pilgrim Life and Health Insurance Company in memory of its late president.

ROY WILKINS, *who was speaker at the national convention of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in Los Angeles, California, in 1957, presents plaques for five paid-in-full NAACP life memberships taken out by the APA. Pictured (from L) are Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary; Frank L. Stanley, general president of APA; Jewel N. A. Murray, Jewel G. B. Kelley, founders of APA; James E. Huger, general secretary of APA; and a stand-in for Jewel Henry A. Callis, also a founder of APA.*

ENLISTMENT FOR LIFE IN THE NAACP

An opportunity to enlist for life in a crusade for human rights awaits the person who becomes a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, consistently has fought in the courts and in legislative forums for basic citizenship rights for persons of all races, colors, creeds, national origins. The Association also has appealed persistently to the conscience of America on this significant issue.

Noteworthy advances have been made through the efforts of the NAACP during its almost half-century of existence. These gains have hardened the core of reactionary resistance to civil rights. Thus the need to intensify the work of the Association is greater than ever if remaining racial discrimination and segregation in education, voting, housing, employment, transportation, public accommodations are to be ended. At present, 25,000 additional life members are being sought to provide necessary financial resources for the Association to accelerate its vital program.

An NAACP life membership may be secured by an individual or by an organization. In the latter category, life memberships have been taken out by churches, labor unions, professional societies, clubs, fraternities and sororities, civic groups and business firms. An organization also can secure a life membership for its leader, in his or her name.

To enlist for life in the NAACP entails an expenditure of $500, but this amount may be paid on an annual subscription basis.

Book Reviews

RESOURCEFUL WOMAN

***Mary McLeod Bethune.* By Emma Gelders Sterne. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957. $3.50.**

The great American sermon which Emerson preached at Cambridge 120 years ago was in good measure typified in the life of the late Mary McLeod Bethune: she was not the product of "systems of education," but of that "unhandseled savage nature" such as her hardworking slave parents survived on South Carolina Plantations.

The first freeborn (on July 19, 1875), and fifteenth child, of Sam and Patsy McLeod, Mary Jane's mark at birth was a show of strength. Leading from this native strength and the ideological inheritance of the Freedman's Bureau—that simple belief that education is a solution to mankind's incapacitations and ills—she became within the compass of her 79 energetic years a power to be reckoned with, and in time was to wield influence high in government through the NYA and her association with the Roosevelts.

At once brave, perceptive, curious and resourceful, she had the fire and zeal of that pioneer stock which in our culture dates from Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. She built an institution which bears the dominant characteristic of its founder's personality—proud Bethune-Cookman College—whose origin stems from the sweet potato pies Mrs. Bethune baked and sold. A simple prayer—"Enter to learn; depart to serve"—uttered as she led the six wards (one her own child by her husband, Alburtus) into her schoolhouse, became her theme and mission; and from platforms throughout the nation she interpreted its challenge to her audiences: Mrs. Bethune was also an old style preacher woman who could communicate theatrically the grand drama she personified.

The author of this biography, Mrs. Sterne, is a well-qualified Southerner who, like Mrs. Bethune, transcended the limitations of her regional birth; she tells the story of this remarkable woman's achievments with ingenuity and zest. As biography, it penetrates but slightly (being not so much search as presentation), yet it can be read with profit, for it tells us what a great woman did with faith. And it records a statement Mrs. Bethune made after the much discussed and defied Supreme Court decision which may well be pondered by educators North and South: "'. . . It is a tortuous logic that would use the tragic result of inequality to establish the need for continuing it.'"

Henry F. Winslow

Calypso Song Book. By William Attaway. Edited and compiled by Lyle Engel. Illustrations by William Charmatz. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1957, $2.95.

Mr. Engel has collected between book covers some of the catchy airs, with their thumping rhythms, of the recent Calypso craze. Mr. Attaway himself contributes a preface, "What is Calypso?" Calypso originated in Trinidad and authentic calypso is always Trinidadian. In fact, the island has been nicknamed "Land of Calypso." There calypso music is still popular. It is really an integral part of the island's culture. There are twenty-five songs in this collection—including *Banana Boat Leader's Song, Mary Ann, Brown Skin Girl, Matilda,* etc.—with music. They may be sung either to piano or guitar accompaniment.

J.W.I.

LUKE JONES

(*Continued from page* 12)

in Galveston with a trainload of food and supplies, and at two o'clock they attended a public meeting called by the mayor in a section of the city hall, which was still intact.

The first thing the city had to do was to care for the injured and to dispose of the dead. Buzzards were already circling in the sky. The bodies of victims could be seen everywhere. Committees were formed and every able-bodied citizen conscripted and put to work. At that time, the death toll was not believed to be in access of eight hundred, Infirmaries and morgues were established in the most habitable of offi-

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ces and homes. Jones, without sleep for two nights, toiled that afternoon and another night. There were few lights in the wounded homes of the city. No street cars were running. Most of the horses, dogs, and cats had perished. Men pried into the heaps of rubble, and gathered the grist of dead along the beaches. Out in the dark bay, hanging on the broken timbers of a bridge, like convicts suspended on a grotesque gibbet, were the battered bodies of thirty victims, while hundreds floated on the surface of the bay.

Over the lurid panorama of land and sea, the fetid odor of decay was commencing to rise.

Jones collapsed from exhaustion on the third morning, and slept until nearly noon. He awoke to find the dead being buried in shallow graves, and helped in the work. But before another day passed, this burial method was abandoned and it was decided to ferry the bodies out to sea for burial. He helped stack seven hundred on barges and accompanied this fantastic interment out into the Gulf.

The danger of epidemics were now imminent, and drastic measures had to be taken. Cremation was the only solution. Jones was assigned, with hundreds of others, to build great funeral pyres out of the drying debris. Upon these, the bodies were placed, and for two days the sky was smoky with the burning dead. His work done, Jones reported back to the *Roma*. A few weeks later he sailed for England.

VOTING IN SOUTH

(*Continued from page* 8)

will undoubtedly adopt new and stronger measures to prevent the Negro from voting. A Georgia legislative committee, immediately after the Atlanta NAACP meeting, proposed changes in the state constitution to tighten voting requirements. The committee proposed that persons found guilty of a crime, including violation of liquor laws, child abandonment, adultery, false swearing, dishonorable discharge from the armed services, parties to common-law marriage, failure to register for military service, and being father of an illigitimate child would not be permitted to vote.

There are many places in the South, and some in the Deep South, where Negro registration and voting can be immeasurably increased. With a larger number of Negroes registered, many southern politicians who are not in accord with the demands made upon them by die-hard bigots, will have their backs stiffened if they can be assured of enough Negro support to reelect them should they take a stand on controversial issues.

This was borne out by the recent results in Atlanta, where Mayor William B. Hartsfield, who has been fair on Negroes issues, was reelected. It is estimated that the Mayor received enough Negro votes to more than insure his reelection. The results of the Little Rock election, held November 6, where Negro voters were largely responsible for the election of six of seven members of the new City Board of Directors, is another example. The Negro voters supported the candidates of the Good Govern-

ment Committee and helped defeat, in a close election, candidates supported by the Capital City White Citizens Councils.

Kelly M. Alexander, chairman of the NAACP Voting and Registration Implementation Committee, has called a meeting of the Committee to be held in New York on January 7. It is expected that this Committee will launch, through NAACP units, and with the support of churches, labor groups, social, civic and other organizations, not only in the South but throughout the entire country, a vigorous campaign to increase the voting strength of the nation's largest minority.

With the second front being established through the recruitment of an army of 3,000,000 new voters in the South, it is predicted that the opponents of integration are going to be confronted in the future with a two-pronged NAACP attack, which should help the Association immeasurably in its campaign to win full freedom for the Negro by 1963.

"MISTER JOHNSON"

(*Continued from page* 16)

Hyman played in *Two Gentlemen from Verona, The Tempest, Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice, A Mid-Summer's Night Dream, Romeo and Juliet,* and *Troilus and Cressida.* All these productions were off-Broadway but they paid Hyman enough to meet his food and rent bills.

When an actor talks of Shakespeare, it is equivalent to a preacher talking about God. And the sanctimoniousness that results is as expected. Hyman's summation of the Bard is therefore likely to shock some of his co-workers. "He's the best meal ticket I've ever had," the young actor says impishly.

The big question now facing Hyman is: where does he go from here? He knows stellar success is fraught with danger whereas mild recognition supplies him food and money. The handsome actor is not going to turn down any job because of its smallness. As a matter of fact, he probably is more likely to let a lead role slip by him. That way he can avoid what might be the aftermath of a smashing success.

As for his personal plans, now that he has some money in the bank and sees a prospect for financial stability, he is again thinking of marriage. The handsome eligible has been engaged twice and "disengaged" twice, but he says he wants to take the plunge now. He realizes he'll "have to hold my nose nad close my eyes, but I think it'll be worth it." At present Earle lives in a four-room apartment in upper Riverside Drive with two cats. His telephone number is listed.

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